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degenerated through vicious habits, led astray by prostitution, debauched by temperament or by satiety of pleasure, the alcoholics, the morphimaniacs, etc.; under the influence of a special habit a criminal habit is born and developed. The fourth and last type is hereditary, sometimes susceptible of being referred to atavism, not of an ethnic type, but rather pathological, degenerative or teratological.

The suppression of a unity, or its reduction by lessening its conditions of resistance is a crime, from the social point of view. But is it a crime when it is the suppression of one's own proper person, or suicide? To prefer to die, rather than live in a slow degradation under the chains of misery, does not merit reproach but pity, and in some cases admiration. The suicides are the discontented; they do not oppose their surroundings, they simply abandon an environment which they believe themselves unable to inhabit. They do not differ much from those who, disgusted with the world, without knowing the world, at the age of virility, shut themselves in cloisters, protesting thus against the form of general society. Crime and suicide are two acts equally prejudicial to collective interests. They represent two modes of antisocial impulsiveness, which cannot be regarded as equivalents, although they arise from similar psychical aberrations and from conditions more or less analogous. Suicide has more alliance with insanity than crime has. Degenerative habits, as alcoholism, morphimania and debauch are the most intensive causes of attacks against others and against one's self. Alcoholism conducts men to suicide or to crime, according to their characters.

Washington, D. C.

ARTHUR MACDONALD

LYDSTON AND TALBOT, *Studies of criminals*.—Alienist and Neurologist, 1891, XIII. 556.

These deal with the "degeneracy of cranial and maxillary development in the criminal class," and are accompanied by illustrations of criminal skulls and histories typical of the physical degeneracy of the criminal. They are peculiarly valuable and interesting for comparison with the studies of Lombroso and other European criminologists. Talbot investigated a very large number of cases of habituals and murderers among the prisoners in the Joliet penitentiary. The histories and descriptions of these are given in detail, besides the results of examinations of the jaws and teeth of 477 criminal subjects (468 males, 9 females). Lydston presents also the results of his studies of the skulls of criminals and social outcasts of various nationalities and races.

The more pronounced criminal types are found amongst the imported criminals. Simplicity of gyres in the brain seems indicative of degeneracy. The most striking features of the criminal skull, as seen in American prisons, are the tendencies to brachycephalism and submicrocephalism and the great frequency of cranial asymmetry. The direction of the degeneracy is modified by racial characteristics. The dolichocephalic type, when degenerated, becomes in general more dolichocephalic. A striking feature of the degenerate skull, as illustrated by many skulls in the habitual criminal class, is its peculiar "twisted" conformation. Alcohol is the touch-stone, the crucial lymph, that brings out the inherent infection of madness, crime, or bestiality. Heredity is the latent power and alcohol the potential energy that drives the arrow to the mark. Left-handedness is rare amongst American and foreign-American criminals. One per cent. only of the 400 criminals in the Joliet penitentiary were found to be left-handed, and two per cent. in the New York city prison.

It is impossible to look over the descriptions of these criminals without noting the continual occurrence of facial and cranial asymmetries. The physical degeneracy and often the bad heredity of the subjects are

plainly shown, and their defective or degenerated mentality seems often as clearly indicated. With respect to the eyes of eighteen criminals, defective vision is recorded in five cases; in five cases one eye is perceptibly larger than the other, and other anomalies of development occur. Two cases of defective hearing are noted, and in no fewer than eight cases asymmetry of the ears prevails, besides other cases of auricular anomalies. The number of cases considered is obviously too small for general conclusions, but the facts cited seem in general harmony with the results of previous investigators.

The question of the asymmetry of the skeleton and of the bodily organs deserves to be studied more closely. From an examination of the jaws of 468 male criminals, Drs. Lydston and Talbot found that but 163 could be called normal, the rest departing from the normal type in one or more respects. Most of the deformities of the jaws and teeth were confined to the upper maxilla.

The craniological studies of Dr. Lydston seem to have covered a wide ground. In the skulls of these criminals and offenders against organized society, asymmetry and anomalies are equally as prominent as in the case of living delinquents. Some very interesting skulls have come into the possession or fallen under the observation of Dr. Lydston. Among these are the skull of the first Chinese suicide in America, a man who shot himself because the white girl to whom he was engaged proved false; the skull of a negro panel worker, the consort of a noted Chicago courtesan of other days; the skull of a notorious member of the *demi-monde* of Chicago, who was half Indian, half white; and the skull of a noted western desperado and train-wrecker. Upon the study of such material the authors have based their conclusions, which may be summed up in their own words: "As far as our observations go, they tend to show that a degenerate type of skull is common among criminals, and that the assertion of Lombroso, that the deviation of type, as far as the index is concerned is toward brachycephalism, is correct."

A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.

C. S. MINOT, *Senescence and Rejuvenation*, Journ. of Physiol. No. 2, 1891.

The fundamental properties of living organisms constitute the most fruitful theme of biology. From the age of Zero, or the moment of impregnation, animals and plants pass through a series of changes till, barring accident, they reach their limits of longevity. Rejuvenation is procreation. The author weighed, daily, hundreds of Guinea pigs. Gestation is shorter the larger the litter. There is a progressive love in the power of growth, beginning almost at birth, and suggests whether, in all animals, the impulse given at impregnation does not gradually die out. This is indicated by the author's very interesting curves. Curves at least is his theory of "physiologically equivalent weights."

DEMENY, *Analyse des mouvements de la parole par la chronophotographie*, Comptes rend. 1891. CXIII. 216.

M. Demeny gives an account of the application of the chronophotographic process, to the analysis of lip-movements in speaking; and of the construction of a zootrope, by means of which he succeeded in so synthesizing those movements that a deaf-mute, standing before the instruments, was able to read the phrase, whose corresponding lip-movements were thereby reproduced. Vowel and diphthong movements were interpreted as well as those of labials. The experiment was not a complete success; but this was due to the fact that part of the phrase pronounced was imperfectly photographed, and the deaf-mute was not quick enough to guess it from the general sense of the passage. Besides, the movements of the tongue were only very vaguely reproduced, and